

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Regarding the Office Action mailed February 19, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 102(b), and 103(a) based on the following remarks.

Applicants' discloses a technique for data recovery and error concealment using data hiding. Particularly, the present invention provides a system and method that uses data hiding techniques to recover or repair the missing or damaged data chunks. The technique involves hiding a content representative amount of information generated or extracted from each data block into another block of the image. The hidden content serves as an abstract or signature for the block it was generated or extracted from. The purpose of this invention is a data recovery of the missing or damaged data.

Multi-level Data Hiding for Digital Image and Video (herein Wu) discloses how to hide an image such as a watermark in a document. The purpose is for copyright protection not for a data recovery of the missing or damaged data. Importantly, Wu does not extract data used for the watermark from a first block for placing in a second block.

In view of this significant difference, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims already distinguish Applicant's invention from Wu. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections stated in this Office Action, due to irrelevant reference, Wu.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. Applicant(s) have amended the specification according to the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS AND REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

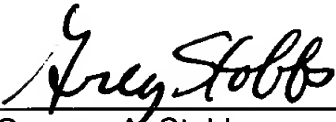
The Examiner states that claims 15, 24, 18, 22, and 25 are objected. Applicants have amended claims 15, 24, 18, 22, and 25 according to the Examiner's suggestion. The Examiner states that claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claims 22 and 23 to overcome the rejection. Therefore, claims 15, 24, 18, 22, and 25 should now be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections of claims 15, 24, 18, 22, and 25 based on their dependency from allowable claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 19, 2004

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